

## **What Should I Do When My Child Swears?**

Young children are very impressionable and pick up on words that they hear whether it be at home, school, the playground, or at day care. Although parents make attempts to shield their children from swear words, they're bound to hear them at some point and in turn begin to repeat them. At first this may appear funny, but parents are advised not to laugh as this will only encourage the behavior. Children under the age of two are not going to typically understand that some words should not be used and parents may find it beneficial to ignore this behavior when it occasionally occurs. Once your child reaches a developmental level where they begin to comprehend rules and consequences, typically around age three, it's best to address the issue. Parents should place themselves at eye level with their children and explain that the word(s) that they are using are not acceptable. Sometimes providing your child with an alternative phrase for when they want to express themselves helps.

If your child continues to curse despite this attempt, parents should make an effort to discipline their children for this behavior by placing them in time out for a minute per their age or removing a privilege. While many parents are able to aid their children in avoiding bad language, there is no substitute for parents avoiding its use themselves. As a parent, you are a role model for your child and if you practice what you preach, they'll usually follow suit.